

III. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-14 and 16-24 were allowed.

Applicants propose amending claims 1, 10 and 20, and canceling claim 21.

In claims 1 and 10, a typographical error pertaining to the misspelled word "assembly" has been corrected to "assembly".

In claim 10, a typographical error pertaining to the misspelled word "state" has been corrected to "stream".

In claim 20, the following deleted subject matter was inadvertently not included in Applicants' previous amendment to claim 20: *"each depletion compartment configured such that fluid brought there into flows into each ion concentration channel substantially sequentially, wherein each depletion and concentration compartment comprises a substantially monolithic thermoplastic framework, said thermoplastic framework formed to define (a) said channels of the respective compartment, (b) a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, (c) a first and second fluid bypass capable of allowing the fluid to pass through said respective compartment without passing through said channels of said respective compartment."*

Applicants also propose to amend claim 20 in order to correct the improper antecedent basis for the phrase "water stream" by deleting the term "water" and inserting "fluid" which had been the expression previously used in this claim for the stream. Applicants also propose to amend claim 20 by deleting the duplicate term "compartments", and by correcting the listing of sections "a) through f)".

Applicants propose to cancel claim 21 because the subject pertaining to the "monolithic thermoplastic framework" has been deleted from proposed claim 20.

Entry of the foregoing Amendment and Response is respectfully in order and requested. Applicants assert that *no new matter* has been added by these proposed amendments.

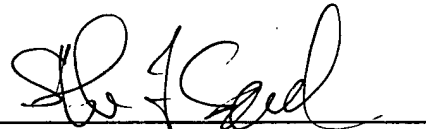
Accordingly, upon the entry of the proposed amendment and response, claims 1-5, 7, 10-14, 16-20, and 22-24 will be allowed.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully contend that this proposed amendment does not alter the substance of the application or the scope of the claims, and *does not add any new matter*. It is respectfully submitted that the claims remain allowable without further search or consideration.

Therefore, entry of this proposed amendment is appropriate under C.F.R. § 1.312, and is respectfully requested. If however the Examiner believes that some requirement has been missed or not completely answered, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **April 27, 2010**.


Stacey Gross